

CLUTTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1948.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population 16990

Area in Acres:- 42,645.

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books 5,020.

Rateable Value and Sum Represented by a Penny Rate: £69521 and £276.3.10.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND OCCUPATIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Remain the same as in the past. There are no new Industries. Agriculture, Coal Mining, Stone Quarrying and Printing at Paulton are the chief sources of employment.

There is very little unemployment in the district and labour both male and female is difficult to obtain.

Housing conditions have been slightly alleviated by the new houses which have so far been completed but very many more will be needed before we have overcome the overcrowding and house sharing problems. There is also a great deal of bad or unsatisfactory property to be dealt with which cannot be dispensed with at the present time.

Up to date it has been felt that any house is better than no house at all and we have a large number of young married couples with or without children who have never yet been able to have a home of their own.

Until they have been accommodated it is not possible to close or demolish unsatisfactory house property.

Additional bulk supplies of water and the provision of sewerage schemes throughout the district are also urgent problems.

The health of the district throughout the year, under review has remained exceptionally good.

There has been no serious outbreak of Infectious Disease.

The detailed figures contained in this report all tend to show that the National Welfare schemes as applied to Public Health are bearing fruit. I would specially draw your attention to the figures relating to Diphtheria for the last 10 years, recently published in the Press.

On July 5th 1948 the National Health Act came into force in company with its attendant satellites, the National Unemployment Act, the National Assistance Act etc. With it came sweeping changes in the control and administration of Public Health and Private or Contract Medical and Hospital Practice. On that date every single person in this Country became eligible for Free Treatment both Medical, Hospital, Dental and Optical together with many other benefits, too numerous and too complicated to detail.

At the same time a very large proportion of the inhabitants became liable to contribute to these schemes, each week a very considerable sum of money in the form of National Insurance Stamps. But whether they contribute or not they are all eligible for most of the benefits relating to Health and Treatment, free of all cost to themselves.

All new Regimes take time to settle down and suffer from innumerable teething troubles but by the end of 1948 it is possible to see already many inestimable benefits ~~accruing~~ to the public. Amongst them I would number:

An excellent service of free ambulances and ambulance cars for transport of the sick to and from Hospitals, Clinics etc.

Free Dental Treatment and Free Optical Benefit. It is true that the latter has been almost swamped by the unexpectedly heavy demand but this should right itself in time as the demand is satisfied.

The Hospital Treatment available both In and Out patient has always in this area been magnificent and it still is so but being now free to all it is also overworked and there are consequent inevitable delays.

We need more Hospitals and more staff for them as also for the existing ones.

It is regrettable that through lack of staff we no longer have our own Isolation Hospital at Paulton.

We also urgently need increased accommodation for the aged sick. Cambrook House is supreme in its own sphere and our thanks are due to the Master, Matron and Staff for their kindly care of their patients. I have never yet met one who was unhappy in this Institution. But we want more of it or more like it in order to cut down the long time of waiting for admission.

In my opinion we need also some form of Maternity Hospital for the Area.

I would also commend to your notice the Home Help Scheme which is so ably administered for us by Miss Davies of Litton under the auspices of the W.V.S. She will always find at short notice a capable woman to assist daily in a house of sickness where such help is proved to be necessary.

We should not forget either our debt of gratitude to the District Nurses, now also under State Control, for their selfless devotion to duty in the care of our sick by day and by night.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Shaw for his unfailing help throughout the year as also to our Clerk, Mr. Barwick who so often puts me right when I am wrong, but on whose profound wisdom and knowledge of Local Government Law, I frequently call.

In subsequent pages you will find such details and statistics as have been asked for by the Ministry of Health in their Circular 3/49 (England) Jan. 17th 1949.

In conclusion Ladies and Gentlemen I have the honour to remain

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD V. BREW.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	164	144	308
Illegitimate	9	3	12
	<u>173</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>320</u>
Birth Rate per 1000 Population:-	19.2		

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
Rate of Still births per 1000 Births:-	28.12		

Deaths.

From all Causes	Male 95
	Female 87
	<u>182</u>

Death Rate per 1000 of Population:- 10.71.

Causes of Deaths.

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Whooping Cough	0	1	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	3	1	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	4	5
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	0	1	1
Cancer of Mouth Oesophagus and Uterus	2	1	3
Cancer of Stomach or Duodenum	6	5	11
Cancer of Breast	0	6	6
Cancer of all other sites	7	7	14
Diabetes	1	1	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	7	17	24
Heart Disease	32	30	62
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	2	4
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	0	4
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	0	1	1
Other Digestive Disorders	3	2	5
Nephritis	3	2	5
Premature Birth	4	1	5
Congenital Malformation Birth			
Injuries and Infant diseases	3	0	3
Suicide	1	0	1
Road Traffic Accidents	4	0	4
Other Violent Causes.	1	0	1
All other causes	5	3	8

Number of Women Dying in or in Consequence of Childbirth:- 0
For other puerperal Causes:- 0.

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	9	2	11
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil
	9	2	11

Death Rate of Infants per 1000 Live Births:- 34.37

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough 1

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs) 0

Zymotic Death Rate for 1000 Population:- .01

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS COMPARED
WITH 1947.

Estimated Population is higher by 130.

Births are less by 18

Deaths are less by 14

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	7		
Measles	276		1
Whooping Cough	114		
Pneumonia	10		
Acute Poliomyelitis	1		
Erysipelas	2		
	<u>410</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

390 of these notifications are accounted for by Measles and Whooping Cough.

<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>		<u>Total Deaths</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Respiratory	6	9	3	1
Other Forms	2	6	1	4
	<u>8</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

T.B. Register.

At Dec. 31st 1948 the Register of Tuberculosis cases resident in the Clutton area showed

<u>Pulmonary Males</u>	<u>Pulmonary Females</u>	<u>Non Pulmonary Males</u>	<u>Non Pulmonary Females</u>
26	23	5	6

Total: 31 Males and 29 Females.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

Scheme is administered by the County Authority. The Family Doctor is empowered to Immunize all children up to the age of 5 years with material supplied free from County Hall. His fee is paid by the Local Authority. Each Child so treated receives 2 injections of A.P.T. at intervals of 4 weeks.

Children over 5 years of age can be dealt with by the School Medical Officers (County Staff) at some period of the child's school career i.e. between 5 years and fifteen years a third injection is given by the School Medical Officer as a bolstering dose in case those given in childhood have partly lost their beneficial effect.

In the Clutton District good work is done by the District Nurses in rounding up children and parents and getting them immunized. I feel sure it is due to their efforts that we have a very high percentage of Immunized children. From a list of statistics sent me by the County M.D.H. I find that out of a list of 16 Rural Districts, Clutton lies 4th with a total of 2,872 children under fifteen years immunized between January, 1944 and December, 1948. We were beaten by Axbridge, Langport and Yeovil in that order.

In the six months ending June 30th 1948 Clutton had 155 cases immunized, 4th on the list, and in the next six months 196, 2nd on the list.

This treatment has been of inestimable value in reducing the incidence of Diphtheria.

The operation is practically **painless** and devoid of any after effects. It should be most emphatically urged upon parents of young children that to neglect this simple precaution is to court disaster.

WATER SUPPLY.

During 1948 this has been adequate both in quantity and quality. Bacteriological examinations of raw water were made and also of the treated water going into supply, 4 of each were taken of which 3 raw were satisfactory and 1 slightly unsatisfactory.

4 Treated samples were all satisfactory. There is no plumbago solvent action in this district. The slightly unsatisfactory sample of raw water was found to be due to a choked drain contamination, after clearance of the drain all was well.

The year 1948 was one of reasonable rainfall and that, with the additional water obtained from the Bristol mains and pumped into our mains at Coley, have enabled us to maintain an adequate water supply to most of the District.

There are still a few high spots such as Clutton Hill which do not yet get a continuous adequate supply. We hope that in the future this may be finally overcome by the acquisition of more water and additional pumping.

Nevertheless we are still in a precarious condition as regards our reserves of water if a really dry summer should come along.

PARTICULARS OF THE NUMBER OF DWELLING HOUSES AND THE
NUMBER OF POPULATION SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC MAINS.

1948. Water Supply Statistics.

Parish	No. of Houses	Houses supplied into houses by standpipes.	Not Supplied
CAMELEY	146	127	7
CHELTWOOD	40	18	22
CHEW MAGNA	459	184	275
CHEW STOKE	214	132	82
CHILCOMPTON	206	185	19
CLUTTON	342	298	38
CUMTON MARTIN	139	60	54
EAST HARPTREE	172	118	25
FARMBOROUGH	297	247	54
FARRINGTON			
GURNEY	196	183	13
HIGH LITTLETON	315	288	27
HINTON BLEWETT	51	16	35
LITTON	51	24	27
NEAPNETT	56	16	40
NORTON MAIREWARD	53	25	28
PAULTON	893	808	85
PUBLOW	161	120	41
STANTON DREW	235	180	15
STON EASTON	149	101	12
STOWEY	45	5	40
TIMSBURY	525	430	92
UBLEY	85	39	46
WEST HARPTREE	137	53	84
Totals	4967	3657	898

Details of Extensions & Improvements are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Postwar Proposals.

Augmentation of water supplies to Downside area of supply *viz:* Parishes of Ston Easton, Farrington Gurney, High Littleton, Cameley Clutton, Paulton, Farmborough and Timsbury.

Estimated cost £35,000

Tenders are being obtained for Electric Pumps and Motors to pump water obtained from Bristol Waterworks Co. Mains at Widcombe, East Harptree, to White Cross, Hallatrow, High Littleton.

Water Augmentation Committee has sat on numerous occasions to consider plans for improving our supply and a deal of discussion takes place and some useful decisions have been taken.

It is our urgent desire to find some new and abundant source of water. We have hope for the future when the New Reservoir is finally completed at Chew Stoke.

Sewage Disposal. Extensions, New Works or improvements during the year. Extensions to Chew Stoke Council House Disposal Works.

Postwar Proposals. Chilcompton, Paulton High Littleton to connect with Bathavon R.D.C.

Sewer extension at Radford (estimated cost now being obtained).

Housing.

Houses erected during the year.		Houses in course of erection.	
Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary
Local Auth.	44	40	54
Private Enter- prise	2	0	15
	46	40	69
			0

Houses Required.

- a. To replace those unfit
- b. To abate overcrowding
- c. Where conditions are unsatisfactory
(2 families in one house etc.)

374

Total number of applicants for Council houses at end of the year: 1335

Observations Re the above Housing Figures.

A very modest estimate indeed. We have a great deal of very bad house property in the district which unfortunately will have to remain inhabited for a long while to come.

House Letting Committee.

This is a hard working and hard thinking sub-committee whose job is extremely difficult. I am a member and have attended all its meetings.

When new houses are ready for letting every application is received and sifted until finally we make our choice and select the tenants. I doubt if the public realize the difficulty of dividing say 8 houses amongst say 30 to 90 or more seemingly all deserving cases. We do our best to do good where lies the greatest need and if we disappoint many it is not through ill will or through favouritism but because we have not enough houses to go round. I only wish we had them!!!

We urgently need many more new houses and shall continue to do so for many years.

Milk.

A. Total Number of Registered Dairy Farms	417
B. " " of Retailers	93
C. Number of Producer Retailers included in B	87
D. Number of Licensed Pasteurising Plants	1.

Heat Treatment Plants, so far we have none.

The District has always been largely concerned with Dairy Farming. There is a continued and steady improvement year by year in the quality of the cattle and the quality and quantity of milk produced. It is to me a mystery where all the milk goes so that in a land flowing with milk there is still need for severe rationing.

One of the greatest hardships to the aged is the inability to get enough milk for their daily cups of tea and it is a fact that $2\frac{1}{2}$ pints of Milk for seven days does not allow of much tea drinking.

Ice Cream.

Number of Premises Registered for Manufacture 1
Sale 7
All these premises are kept scrupulously clean and sell a high
class product.

Slaughter Houses.

Number of Licensed Slaughter Houses in District -6
 " " Registered " " " 11
 " " Slaughter Houses where horses are
 killed for Human Consumption. Nil

River Pollution. 2 Cases of pollution by Colliery Dashing Plants discovered and being dealt with. It is proposed to increase storage and settlement tank accommodation.

All Rivers and streams in the district suffer from pollution of a greater or lesser degree, since there being no sewerage scheme most drains and overflows from cesspits etc., find their way to the nearest water course. As the numbers of houses increase so will the pollution increase until we have a comprehensive sewerage scheme for the whole district.

It is to be hoped that the scheme which has been on paper since the prewar days will eventually come to fruition.

Knackers Yards.

There are none.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor is attached.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CLUTTON
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SANITARY INSPECTORS ANNUAL REPORT FOR
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- 1948 -

Temple Cloud,
21st February, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Clutton Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith present to you my eleventh annual report and summary of the sanitary conditions and work carried out in the Health Department for the year ended 31st December 1948.

NOTICES

31 Preliminary or Informal Notices were served upon owners or occupiers requiring them to abate nuisances and sanitary defects found in connection with dwelling houses. Four Statutory Notices were served on the owners to abate nuisances which secured the abatement of the nuisances concerned.

NUISANCES

The number of inspections for the purpose of detecting or ascertaining the existence of nuisances was 103.

96 Nuisances were discovered and the following gives particulars:

NUISANCES ABATED

Choked drains, gullies etc.....	15
Choked intercepting chambers.....	2
Defective drains.....	6
Cesspools, defective and overflowing.....	30
Dampness, due to defective roofs, walls etc.....	7
Defective foul and insanitary W.C. pedestals.....	4
Defective eaves troughs.....	5
Foul condition of water course.....	1
Defective roofs.....	4
Defective wells.....	3
Defective walls.....	3
Deposit of filth.....	3
House in filthy condition.....	1
Defective pail closets.....	1
Defective sinks.....	1
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance.....	1
Defective floors.....	5
Defective ceilings.....	1
Defective rain water pipes.....	3

HOUSING INSPECTION AND CLEARANCE AREAS

Actual work under this heading is still suspended.

WATER SAMPLES

During the year 25 routine samples were taken from various supplies and submitted to the Analyst of the Somerset County Council Laboratory with the result that 13 were found to be satisfactory, 3 not quite satisfactory and 9 unsatisfactory.

The Townsend East Harptree Springs delivered water of a satisfactory quality during the year. The Chlorinating Plants at Pitt Farm Reservoir and at Townsend East Harptree Pumping Station still continue to give satisfactory results. The quality of the water supplied by the Downside Authorities proved on analysis to be satisfactory on each of the 2 occasions when samples were taken.

During the year 1948, 1820 yards of 3" dia. water mains were laid from Clutton Hill, near Maynard Terrace, Clutton to Kingwell Cross-road for the purpose of improving the supplies to Clutton Hill and Clutton Flats. Considerable difficulties in the laying of this main were encountered due to hard rock from Clutton Hill to Kingwell Cross-road. This work forms a small portion of the scheme for water augmentation p.t.o.

p.t.o.

on the Downside Supply Scheme in conjunction with the Coley Pump which pumps water from the Bristol Waterworks Co.'s main at East Harptree into the Downside supplies at Temple Cloud. These works have considerably improved the water supply to Clutton Hill and Clutton Flats.

SCAVENGING OF THE DISTRICT

During the year 1948, the system of weekly removal of all classes of house refuse was maintained. The system is working satisfactorily and the number of complaints received during the year is very small. These complaints were immediately attended to by the Contractors when brought to their notice. During the year the addition of a special low loading refuse removal vehicle was obtained thus enabling the whole of the district to be covered by this type of vehicle.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Two complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories concerning insufficient sanitary accommodation at Factories in the district which were dealt with.

One Certificate as to means of escape in case of fire (Section 34) was issued.

DISINFECTION OF HOUSES

33 inquiries were made upon removal of the patients to hospital and also after notification and 8 rooms were disinfected during the year of which 3 were disinfected after Infectious Diseases and 5 after Tuberculosis.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 14 on the Register and no underground Bakehouses exist in your Area.

These premises are periodically inspected. On the whole these premises are kept in very good condition and lime washed as required by the Factory and Workshops Act.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

The following is the number of producers and retailers appearing on the Registers at the end of the year viz.: -

Number of Producers..... 417

Number of Distributors or Retailers divided as follows:-

Distributors who are Producers..... 87

Distributors only..... 6

The number of licences granted by your Council for "Specialized Milk" are as follows:-

Pasteurised Milk Sellers 2

Tuberculin Tested Milk bottled on premises..... 2

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

Considerable attention has again been paid to Cowsheds and Dairies in the District during the year with the result that 4 new cowsheds and 7 new dairies have been erected. 3 existing cowsheds have been remodelled. 5 farmyards have been concreted and new water supplies to 2 farms have been provided.

PETROLEUM ACT, 1928

At the end of the year there were 70 licences held under this Act, being 60 for storing petrol only, 1 for storing carbide only and 9 for storing petrol and carbide.

SURVEYORS REPORT

80 plans were submitted during the year, 77 of which were approved and 3 disapproved by your Council. The plans were principally for 14 new houses and bungalows, agricultural buildings and for temporary buildings.

Two new houses were completed during the year after building licences were obtained. 15 new houses were under construction at the end of the year.

74 inspections were made during the progress of building operations at houses, works and other types of buildings for the purpose of testing and approving drains, damp courses, foundations etc..

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BUILDING LICENSING

During the year 1948, 242 building licences amounting to £24,783 were issued for repairs, alterations and maintenance to houses and other buildings in the district. 12 applications for building licences amounting to £3,496 were refused. 2 maintenance licences amounting to £235 were issued and 3 licences for war damage houses amounting to £1,512 were also issued. 21 building licences to erect new houses amounting to £23,747 were issued and 5 supplementary licences for the completion of these new houses were also issued amounting to £728. 127 W.B.A. permits for priority materials, 1 W.B.A./H. for labour priority and 30 "M" forms for steel were also issued.

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

During the year 1948, 405 tins of foodstuffs weighing 718 $\frac{5}{8}$ lbs., 227 lbs. of other foodstuffs, 135 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of beef, pork, liver and ham were condemned and voluntarily surrendered by the owners as being unfit for human consumption making a total of 1,081 lbs. made up as follows:- 13 tins Orange Juice, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; 94 tins Evaporated milk, 188 $\frac{3}{8}$ lbs.; 10 tins Pilchards, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; 3 tins Hake, 31bs.; 5 tins Salmon, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; 15 tins Peas, 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.; 2 tins Beans, 21bs.; 2 tins Tomato Juice, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; 1 tin Lemon Jam, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; 1 tin Grape Fruit Marmalade, 21bs.; 123 tins Tomatoes, 305 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; 3 tins Meat Soup, 21bs.; 1 tin Scotch Broth Soup 1lb.; 1 tin Marmalade, 21bs.; 16 tins Apricots, 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.; 3 tins Luncheon Meat, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.; 3 tins Meat and Veg., 31bs.; 13 tins Meat Loaf 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; 2 tins Bacon Rashers, 21bs.; 4 tins Pork Sausages, 41bs.; 1 tin Meat Paste, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.; 1 tin Corned Mutton, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.; 2 tins Corned Meat, 12lbs.; 1 tin Steak and Kidney, 1lb.; 4 tins Grape Fruit, 5lbs.; 1 tin Potato Soup, $\frac{5}{8}$ lb.; 1 tin Plums, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; 1 tin Sardines, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.; 5 tins Condensed Milk, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; 2 tins Mixed Vegetables, 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ lbs.; 4 tins Veal and Ham, 4lbs.; 1 tin Ox Tongue, 1lb.; 65 tins Boiled Beef and Carrots, 65lbs.; 1 tin Jellied Veal, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; 35lbs. Cod Fillets; 42lbs. Cured Codlings; 42lbs. Smoked Haddock; 80lbs. Rolled Oats; 28lbs. Cheese. 70lbs. Beef; 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. Pork; 18lbs. Ox Liver; 29lbs Ham.

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I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. SHAW

Sanitary Inspector,
Building Surveyor and
Water Engineer.

